

Message Text

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AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

UNCLAS LUANDA 0064

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SUBJECT: MPLA PRESIDENT GIVES HIS VIEW OF ANGOLA'S FUTURE

1. MPLA PRESIDENT AGOSTINHO NETO TALKED WITH THE PRESS IN LISBON ON JANUARY 17 AND AGAIN ON JANUARY 18 IN OPORTO, WHERE HE WENT TO RENEW OLD ACQUAINTANCES AND VISIT THE CELL WHERE HE WAS IMPRISONED FOR THIRTY MONTHS EIGHTEEN YEARS AGO. HE SAID IN OPORTO THAT HE WOULD NOT TAKE PART IN THE NEW ANGOLAN GOVERNMENT, BUT WOULD RETURN TO ANGOLA TO LIVE. HE THOUGHT THE PRESIDENTS OF THE OTHER LIBERATION GROUPS WOULD DO THE SAME. NETO SAID HE WILL CONTINUE ON AS PRESIDENT OF MPLA.

2. IN LISBON, NETO EMPHASIZED THAT ANGOLA MUST BE CAREFUL BECAUSE OF ITS FABULOUS RICHES, WHICH ARE COVETED BY CERTAIN NATIONS. HE ADDED, "WE KNOW, MOREOVER, THAT NOW, AS BEFORE, WE ARE SUBJECT TO FOREIGN PRESSURES THAT WILL CONTINUE TO TRY AND DOMINATE OUR COUNTRY. I AM NOT TALKING ABOUT PORTUGAL...BUT
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ABOUT THOSE THAT HAVE THE MULTINATIONAL CORPORATIONS, THE LARGE

COMPANIES, WHICH WILL CONTINUE TO PRESSURE THE LIBERATION MOVEMENTS AND TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE SMALLEST DISAGREEMENTS TO DOMINATE OUR NATION. WE MUST RESIST THESE PRESSURES AND ONLY WHEN WE ACT TOGETHER WILL WE BE FREE OF THAT WHICH IS CALLED NEOCOLONIALISM."

3. THE MPLA PRESIDENT SAID THAT THERE WILL BE NO DISCRIMINATION OF ANY KIND IN ANGOLA, EITHER POLITICAL, RELIGIOUS OR RACIAL. ACCORDING TO PRESS ACCOUNTS HE SAID THAT THE COLONIALIST MINORITY WILL HAVE TO LOSE THE PRIVILEGES IT ENJOYED DURING CENTURIES, BECAUSE ONLY BY THAT MEANS WILL THERE BE A PEACE IN ANGOLA. "WHAT WE MUST DO IS ENSURE THAT THE ANGOLAN IS A MAN AND NOT A SUBHUMAN, THAT HE IS A MAN WHO WALKS WITH HIS HEAD HIGH, ABLE TO BREATHE AS A FREE MAN AND ABLE TO LEARN. IF WE DO THIS, NOT ONLY AFRICA AND THE LUSOPHONE NATIONS WILL BE ENRICHED, BUT THE ENTIRE WORLD...THIS IS WHAT WE WANT, TO HELP THE PEOPLE IN THE TRANSFORMATION OF THE MANY THINGS WE BELIEVE MUST BE CHANGED."

4. IN OPORTO, NETO EXPRESSED SATISFACTION OVER THE INDEPENDENCE AGREEMENT AND SAID THAT INDEPENDENCE WILL MARK NEW A DIRECTION NOT ONLY FOR AFRICA BUT FOR PORTUGAL, AS WELL. HE WENT ON TO SAY THERE ARE A NUMBER OF PROBLEMS TO RESOLVE. CAPITALISM STILL DOMINATES IN SOME AREAS AND IN OTHERS THE TRIBAL CHIEF. THE ECONOMY IS ONE OF SUBSISTENCE. "WE HAVE URBAN AREAS WHERE CAPITALISM HAS ESTABLISHED ITSELF STRONGLY IN TERMS OF ACCUMULATION OF WEALTH AND THE EXPLOITATIVE SYSTEM. THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT CHANGE WILL OCCUR WITH SOME SHOCKS AND WITH DIFFICULTY."

5. NETO ADDED THAT, "EVEN THOUGH ANGOLA IS A RICH COUNTRY WITH A GREAT DEAL OF POTENTIAL, IT WILL NEED THE HELP OF THE MOST DEVELOPED NATIONS...THE EXISTENCE IN ANGOLA OF PETROLEUM, DIAMONDS, IRON AND OTHER MINERALS HAS FOCUSED THE ATTENTION OF THE WORLD HERE. THEN THERE ARE THOSE THAT ATTEMPT MEDDLING AND INTERFERENCE IN ANGOLA AND ARE EAGER TO HAMPER OUR ACTION. WE HAVE THE SITUATION IN CABINDA, WHERE SOME COUNTRIES WANT TO SUPPORT GROUPS TO SATISFY THEIR APPETITES. WE ALSO HAVE THE CASE OF CUNENE RIVER AND THE BORDER WITH KATANGA. IT IS NOT ONLY INDEPENDENCE THAT WILL BRING US PROBLEMS; THERE IS ALSO THE TENDENCY OF THE RICHEST COUNTRIES TO IMPOSE THEIR IDEAS. OURS IS THE ONLY NATION THAT HAS A LONG RAILWAY THAT TRANSPORTS RAW MATERIALS FOR AFRICA. WE HAVE A COAST RICH IN FISH, WHICH ALSO CAUSES THE INVASION OF

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OUR TERRITORIAL WATERS, BY SOUTH AFRICA, FOR EXAMPLE, WHICH CARRIES ON AERIAL SPOTTING TO CATCH LARGE SCHOOLS OF FISH.

6. NETO SAID THAT THE VICTORY OF ANGOLA IS TRANSCENDENTAL FOR SOUTHERN AFRICA. A NEW BLOCK IS GOING TO ENTER THE SOCIETY OF NATIONS. PORTUGAL WILL BENEFIT BECAUSE ITS LANGUAGE WILL BECOME THAT OF THE FORMER COLONIES. IN CONCLUSION HE SAID, "WE HAVE AT OUR SIDE A GROUP OF COUNTRIES THAT HELPED US IN THE ARMED

STRUGGLE, COUNTRIES THAT FOUGHT TO PREVENT NEOCOLONIALISM."
KILLORAN

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